

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 in the Board room at the Administrative Office. Chairman Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Attendance:**

Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Ake (by WebEx), Mr. Strohm, Mr. Gehret (by WebEx) and Mrs. Kooman were present, constituting a quorum in accordance with AWA Bylaws. All AWA Board of Directors meetings are conducted in accordance with the PA Sunshine Laws. Also, in attendance were Solicitor, David Consiglio, Consulting Engineer, Mark Glenn AWA Staff, Mark Perry, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Todd Musser, and Kathy Gabella.

### **Public Comment:**

None

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2020 meeting. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Rubber Dams – Lake Altoona & Impounding Dam – the rubber dams are in production and are expected to ship late August or early September. HTE has requested \$30,000.00 to help with the tariff portion of the cost of the rubber dams. The amount is to be negotiated by Mike Sinisi and a breakdown of the tariff cost is to be provided to the board. The negotiated price should not exceed \$15,000.00.
2. Bids for Goods Lane Waterline Replacement – the bids for this project were opened May 20, with the low bidder being Diehl Contracting, LLC of Glen Hope, bid price of \$1,495,340.
3. Bids for Westerly Maintenance and Material Storage Building – the bids for this project were opened May 20, with the low bidder being RT Contracting of Duncansville, bid price \$108,000.00.
4. Bids for Keystone Pump Station – the bids for this project were opened May 19, with the low bidder being Ferri Contracting Co., Inc. of Canonsburg, bid price \$324,000.00.
5. South Jaggard Street Pump Station – this project is being funded by the debt service reserve fund. There have been some sanitary overflows in the area and a temporary pump has been placed there. Planning approval has just been received from DEP. GD&F will now submit for permits and the project should go out to bid next week.

6. Biosolids Treatment Improvement Project – this is an ongoing project and still moving forward. Work is being done on the scope of work and the energy savings guarantee. The attorneys are working on general contract conditions. The Authority will be retaining the services of a firm called Aqua Law to review ESG's contract. They have provided a letter of intent with a not to exceed price of \$7,000.00.

The PennVest application has been submitted. Staff spoke with the Regional Director of DEP and they understand there is a timeline to follow. DEP fully intends to have the permits issued in time for the PennVest Board Meeting scheduled for July.

After some discussion it was decided to hold meetings with ESG, staff and up to two (2) board members at a time. The meetings will be scheduled the first week of June.

7. Sanitary Sewer Rehab Lining Projects – these projects have been put on hold beginning March 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the Covid-19 Pandemic however a ninety (90) day extension has been given to both Spiniello and IPR contractors. This extension exceeds the time the contractors were shut down for the pandemic. Both contractors have been given permission to resume working on their sewer lining projects effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. The time extensions have been handled through the change order process as provided by the contract documents. With the approved return to work date the contractors have been given more than a 90-day extension.

IPR is back and doing manhole rehab work. The by-pass cleaning crews will be set up and starting work next week. The cured-in-place lining is expected to be complete by the original completion date. Spiniello is still behind schedule but are aware of the deadline.

The cured-in-place lining is approximately 70% complete and the spay-on lining is approximately 35% complete. The ninety-day (90) extension moves the completion date from January 28<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Both contractors were disappointed the Authority had to stop the work in progress. They wanted to continue working on their respective projects. Since this was not considered essential both projects had to be put on hold per Governor Wolf's orders.

### **Requisition Approval:**

Mr. Neugebauer asked Mrs. DeRubeis for the Financial Report and the Requisitions/Authorizations. Mrs. DeRubeis gave her report and then asked for approval of the following requisitions.

Requisitions #39 Sewer Division Construction Fund totaling –\$3,202.37

Sewer Division Capital Fund invoice 84134 totaling – \$4,014.16

Permit Fee totaling - \$500.00

Sewer Division Capital Fund invoice 84133 totaling - \$13,720.44

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the requisitions. Mrs. Kooman seconded. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Last month the board passed a resolution to approve the refinancing of the 2010 Sewer PENNVEST Loan #27787 pending a net savings threshold of 2%. The process is moving forward and the City of Altoona is awaiting its bond rating. The bonds should be priced mid next week and the market is looking favorable at this time. Mrs. DeRubeis will keep the Board updated.

Mrs. DeRubeis also updated the board on the financial audit. Specifically, she mentioned a budget adjustment regarding the refinance of 2010 B and C Sewer Revenue Build America Bonds by the City of Altoona in July of 2019. The auditors suggested reclassifying the debt service as part of the lease payment instead of debt service on the Authority's books. The adjustment is reflected in the interim financial statements for April.

The Authority has received information from the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Bureau regarding changes related to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Authority will receive an exclusion of payroll for wages paid to employees who were performing no services for the employer.

#### **New Business:**

1. West Plant Remediation RFP – Staff is working to develop a professional RFP for the remediation of the PCB site at the Westerly facility. The EPA continues to study this area as a potential clean-up site. There are now options to remediate this area with little or no cost to the Authority. Utilizing a solar array, the AWA may be able to utilize the EPA ACT2 program to turn a brown field into a green field site. Using a renewable energy source, the AWA may be able to get ACT2 general liability releases from the PCB issue that is present at this time. The Authority will work with a consultant to develop a request for proposals on how to move forward with the ACT2 remediation project.

#### **Resolutions/Motions/Bid Awards**

1. Motion to award bid for Goods Lane Waterline Replacement project to lowest responsible bidder, Diehl Contracting, LLC of Glen Hope, bid price of \$1,495,340
2. Motion to award bid for Westerly Maintenance and Material Storage Building to lowest responsible bidder, RT Contracting of Duncansville, bid price \$108,000.00.
3. Motion to award bid for keystone Pump Station Improvements to lowest responsible bidder, Ferri Contracting Co., Inc. of Canonsburg, bid price \$324,000.00

Mr. Strohm moved to award the bids. Mrs. Kooman seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

### **Other Business:**

1. Ad-hoc Committee – Gina DeRubeis, Mark Perry and Mark Glenn met to establish a foundation in order for the committee meeting to be productive. The plan is to get a meeting scheduled in the very near future.
2. Chairman Neugebauer thanked everyone for all the adjustments that have been made in order to be able to still hold the meeting.
3. The Inter-governmental Stormwater Committee is working on a Beaver Dam Branch project. It is to relocate some of the storm water inlets, restore stream banks and work on the over widened areas of the stream channel. This is to tighten up the stream banks and to remove some of the sediment from going into the Chesapeake Bay. The stormwater committee will be asking for rights of entry to the Westerly Plant property in 2021.

### **Media Questions**

Bill Kibler will call staff individually to ask any questions about the meeting.

### **Executive Session:**

An Executive Session was called at 10:06 for personnel and legal issues.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.

Date of Approval: June 18, 2020



Secretary/Assistant Secretary

/klg